

PAYMENT OF BILLS

326. SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort).—

Will the Minister for Finance and Information be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has passed an order to stop or slow down the payment of bills, etc.

(b) whether it is not a fact that large number of bills are pending payment ;

(c) whether Government intend to take steps to see that all legitimate claims are paid without further delay ?

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE (Minister for Finance and Information).—

(a) Government had issued instructions to all the treasuries to slow down payment of bills subject to certain exceptions. This was only for a very short period.

(b) No.

(c) Government has already instructed all the treasuries to honour all bills and cheques without any restrictions.

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ.—ಸರಕಾರ ದಿನೇಬರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚೆಪ್ಪರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ಚೆಕ್ಪರಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ಅನುಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡದು ಎಂದು ನೂತನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳವರು ತಮ್ಮ ದುಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರದ ಚೆಪ್ಪರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಅದನ್ನು ವಾಪಸು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಚೆಕ್ಪರಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿರೆ ಅದು ಡಿಸ್‌ಅನುಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಸರಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆಯೇ ? ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಕಾರದ ತಪ್ಪು ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ? ಇದು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೇಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇ ?

† ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ವೈ. ಹೋರಪಡೆ.—ಉತ್ತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಚೆಪ್ಪರಿಗಳವರು ಬಿಲ್ಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಸು ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಧಾನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ನೂತನಗಳನ್ನೇನೋ ಕೊಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಡಿಸ್‌ಕ್ರಿಪ್ಷನರಿ ಪರವನ್ನು ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದರ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದಾಖ್ತೆ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಬರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಯಾವ ಬಿಲ್ಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೋ ಅಂತಹುದನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಮುಂದೂಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಇದರ ಉದ್ದೇಶ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ.—ಒಪ್ಪಂದದಾಖ್ತೆ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬೋರ್ಡು ಹೆಸರುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರುಗಳು ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಫಂಡಿಂಗ್‌ಗೆ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಕೂಡಿಸಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು. ಸರಕಾರ ಜನವರಿ 26ನೇ ತಾರೀಖು ರಿಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಹಣ ಕೊಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ನಿಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಫಂಡನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗ ಮಾಡಿ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಇದರಂತೆ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಫಂಡುಗಳಿಂದ ದುಡ್ಡನ್ನು ದ್ರಾವ್ಯ ಮಾಡಲು ಚೆಕ್ಪರಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಅದು ಡಿಸ್‌ಅನುಮಾನವು. ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂತಹ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆಯೇ ? ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಏನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ ?

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.—I have already explained that only for a short period of 10 to 15 days we had instructed the Treasuries to go slow on certain payments which could be conveniently postponed without causing inconvenience to the general public. We had also given

(SRI M. Y. GHORPADE)

discretion to the Deputy Commissioners to see that these general instructions do not result in inconvenience. Even before the honourable Member asked this question, I have admitted that some inconvenience might have been caused here and there in spite of every precaution that we have taken. I am not trying to deny it but that does not justify any serious action being taken by the Government against the concerned authorities or the Deputy Commissioners. After all, when these things are done, some inconvenience is caused for which I do not want to defend anybody. The honourable Member would appreciate that under the circumstances we have tried to do our best.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.—Never in the history of our State such a situation had arisen whereby the payments were stopped for want of funds. When the budget is prepared we provide certain amounts. May I know what are the amounts that are diverted and whether the revenue has fallen or whether money has been spent as not expected in the budget?

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.—The question of keeping within our overdraft is a recent situation. After all, when this Government took over, as I have repeatedly said, we had an overdraft of Rs. 72 crores. In the previous situation, any amount of overdraft can be made and the question of this type of discipline never arose in the past. It was only when the nation took a decision to impose financial discipline and that every State Government should work within its permissible overdraft that this situation arose. It is not a reflection of the basic unsoundness of the State's finances. It is only a question of adjusting ways and means. In other words, adjusting expenditure in any particular week or two weeks or month to the inflow of receipts. After all, Sri Shamanna would easily understand that even when the receipts and expenditure over the year as a whole are equal, even then in any given week or given month it may so happen that the outflow of expenditure is more than the inflow of receipts.

After all it is a dynamic situation where in a given month or week the inflow of receipt may be less than the anticipated outflow of expenditure. When such a situation arises if you have to keep yourself within the overdraft limits, it is necessary to go slow so that the payments do not out run the receipts. For instance in a domestic budget even though during the whole year one may not spend more than the salary one gets, in a given month if he buys a refrigerator or radio the outflow may be more than the salary. When such a situation arises we have to control the expenditure. I once again request not to blow this out of proportion and say that this is as a result of bad financing policy. As a matter of fact the State's finances are extremely sound and this inconvenience was due to ways and means situation because of the financial discipline of remaining within the overdraft limit which is of the order of Rs. 7 crores. If it goes beyond Rs. 7 crores we have to control expenditure.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.—I am of the opinion that such a situation may arise now and then in future. May I therefore request that grant to educational institutions and other charitable institutions and grants for purchase of drugs to hospitals may not be held up? May I get an assurance from the minister that while passing such orders essential payments like purchasing of medicine for hospitals, grants to educational institutions, etc., are not delayed?

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.—As a matter of fact the Government had issued instructions to the treasuries not to withhold payments regarding salaries, pensions, gratuities, T.A. bills, grants-in-aid bills of educational institutions and bills for payment arising from court orders, etc. So, those instructions

Take into account what the hon. member has in his mind. I do hope that such a situation will not arise often. As a matter of fact we will take every action to control the flow of expenditure by controlling the department expenditure well in advance. That is precisely the concept of what is called letter of credit. The idea is that the departments monthly and quarterly expenditure keeps in tune with the receipts. So, normally we shall try to avoid such a situation. If, inspite of our efforts such a situation were to arise, as to postpone expenditure, the Government will take precaution that necessary payments are not withheld and the public are not inconvenienced.

Sri D. B. KALMANKAR.—The hon. minister said that in order to keep the overdrafts within the permissible limits, these inconveniences were caused. May I know whether there are any other States in India which have also experienced as our State?

Sri M. Y. GHORPADE.—Yes, several States have had to withhold payments after the discipline of remaining within the overdraft came into existence. Hon. members may have read that some of the neighbouring States have done it on more than one occasion.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್.—ಕೆಲವು ತಿಂಗಳು, ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಲವು ವಾರಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಹಣ ಕೊಡದಾರದೆಂದು ತಾವು ಟ್ರೆಜರಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಅದೇಶ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪನವರು ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ 25 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಬಿಲ್ ಸಹ ಪಾಸಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ; ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಣ್ಣಸಣ್ಣ ಕಂಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಹ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಅವರ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ; ನಮ್ಮ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಒಂದೂವರೆ ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಷ್ಟು ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾಸಾಗದೆ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿ ಇವೆ; ಆದರೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಂಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಬಿಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಸ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೇನು?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ವೈ. ಘೋರ್ಪಡೆ.—ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಂಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಬಿಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕಾಲ ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಿದರೂ ಸಹ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಅದೇಶವನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು; ಆದರೆ ಸಣ್ಣಸಣ್ಣ ಬಿಲ್‌ಗಳ ಹೇಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸ ಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ; ಆದರೂ ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ಅನಾನುಕೂಲತೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಅದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಪಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ.